

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, TZ

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH TANZANIAN
AMBASSADOR

1. ASST. SECTY. MOOSE TELEPHONED TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR
BOMANI SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN ANTICIPATION OF BOMANI'S
DEPARTURE FOR TANZANIA TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONFERENCE OF
ALL TANZANIAN AMBASSADORS IN ARUSHA NEXT WEEK. BOMANI
EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN ANXIOUS TO TALK TO MOOSE,
WHOM HE THOUGHT WAS STILL IN LONDON. BOMANI SAID THAT
THE ARUSHA CONFERENCE WOULD BE ATTENDED NOT ONLY BY
TANZANIAN AMBASSADORS, BUT BY ALL MOZAMBIKAN AMBASSADORS
AS WELL.

2. MOOSE ASSURED BOMANI THAT US AND UK GOVERNMENTS STILL
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SUPPORT BRITISH/AMERICAN PLAN, BELIEVING IT TO BE THE
BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE. CLEARLY
THE SALISBURY TALKS CONSTITUTE A PROBLEM BUT, AS AMBASSA-
DOR MUST HAVE NOTED, THE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT
ENDORSED THEM. MANY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS ARE MISSING FROM
WHAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AT SALISBURY AND WE ARE SKEPTICAL
OF SMITH'S WILLINGNESS TO YIELD POWER. AT SAME TIME,

THERE IS A DANGER THAT MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WILL MAKE AN

AGREEMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE AND WHICH WILL POSE GREAT PROBLEMS FOR ALL OF US. IN THIS CONNECTION, MOOSE SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OF FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS POINTING OUT TO MUZOREWA THE DANGER THAT THEIR ACTIONS MAY SERVE TO INTENSIFY DIVISIONS AMONG THE NATIONALISTS AND CONTRIBUTE TO A SITUATION WHICH WOULD ONLY PLAY INTO SMITH'S HANDS.

3. BOMANI EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORT FROM LONDON OVER SITHOLE'S CLAIM THAT HE HAD "ACHIEVED PROGRESS" IN TALKS WITH THE BRITISH. MOOSE ASSURED BOMANI THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE BRITISH CONVERSATIONS WITH SITHOLE WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, MOOSE SAID HE DID NOT ATTEND, THE BRITISH HAD NOT ENDORSED SALISBURY TALKS AND WERE NOT "NEGOTIATING" WITH SITHOLE. MOOSE SAID BRITISH AND AMERICANS WERE BOTH ENDEAVORING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MUZOREWA TO COUNSEL HIM AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF SMITH'S CONDITIONS, BUT THAT MUZOREWA HAD DECLINED TO COME OUT OF RHODESIA FOR THE TIME BEING.

4. BOMANI ASKED WHETHER THE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS WERE PREPARED TO GO FORWARD WITH TALKS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT. MOOSE RECALLED THAT WE HAD OFFERED TO MEET NKOMO AND MUGABE AT NEW YORK ON FEBRUARY 10 BUT THEY HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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UNABLE TO MEET AT THAT TIME. NKOMO AND MUGABE'S ATTITUDES ARE UNCLEAR TO US NOW. IN THIS CONNECTION, MOOSE SAID THAT WE EXPECTED TO BE MAKING SOUNDINGS WITH THE FRONT LINE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO OBTAIN THEIR ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED. BOMANI SAID THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD SOMEONE MIGHT BE VISITING DAR IN NEAR FUTURE. MOOSE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A POSSIBILITY OF HIS CONTINUING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA FOLLOWING LONDON VISIT, BUT PRESS OF OTHER EVENTS HAD REQUIRED HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMBASSADORS IN FRONT LINE CAPITALS PROBABLY WOULD BE MAKING CONTACTS IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. DISCUSSION THEN RETURNED TO STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN IN WAKE OF MALTA TALKS. BOMANI SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANT UNSOLVED ISSUE CONCERNED WHETHER GOVERNING COUNCIL WOULD BE SOLELY ADVISORY. MOOSE EXPLAINED THAT INITIAL US/UK CONCEPT WAS FOR A STRICTLY ADVISORY ROLE, BUT THIS PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MODIFIED IN AN IMPORTANT MANNER IN THE COURSE OF THE MALTA TALKS. MOOSE EXPLAINED THE CONCEPT OF A GOVERNING COUNCIL WITH LEGISLATIVE POWERS AND VETO

OVER RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S ACTS IN AREAS OTHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POLICE, AND ARMED FORCES. MOOSE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT TWO PRIMARY ISSUES WERE NEEDED FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT ACCEPTANCE OF AUTHORITY OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, EXCEPT AS MODIFIED BY GOVERNING COUNCIL, AND CONTROL OVER THE POLICE. CONTINUED INSISTENCE OF PATRIOTIC FRONT ON "DOMINANT" ROLE IN TRANSITION AND IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION IN POLICE FUNCTION CONSTITUTED SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT ON THE PLAN. IN MOOSE'S VIEW IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE TO CONVENE ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ONLY TO HAVE IT END IN DISAGREEMENT ON THESE SAME TWO POINTS. IN OUR FORTHCOMING CONTACTS WITH FRONT LINE, WE WOULD BE SEEKING VIEWS ON HOW BEST
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ONE COULD EXPLORE CURRENT ATTITUDES WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND ON QUESTION OF POSSIBILITY OF LOWER-LEVEL TALKS ON MATTERS SUCH AS MILITARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES.

6. AMBASSADOR TOOK CUSTOMARY LOW-KEY LINE THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION AND EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR CALL. MOOSE ASSURED BOMANI THAT US GOVERNMENT WAS EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE PRESIDENT NYERERE'S EFFORTS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO CONSULTATION WITH HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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